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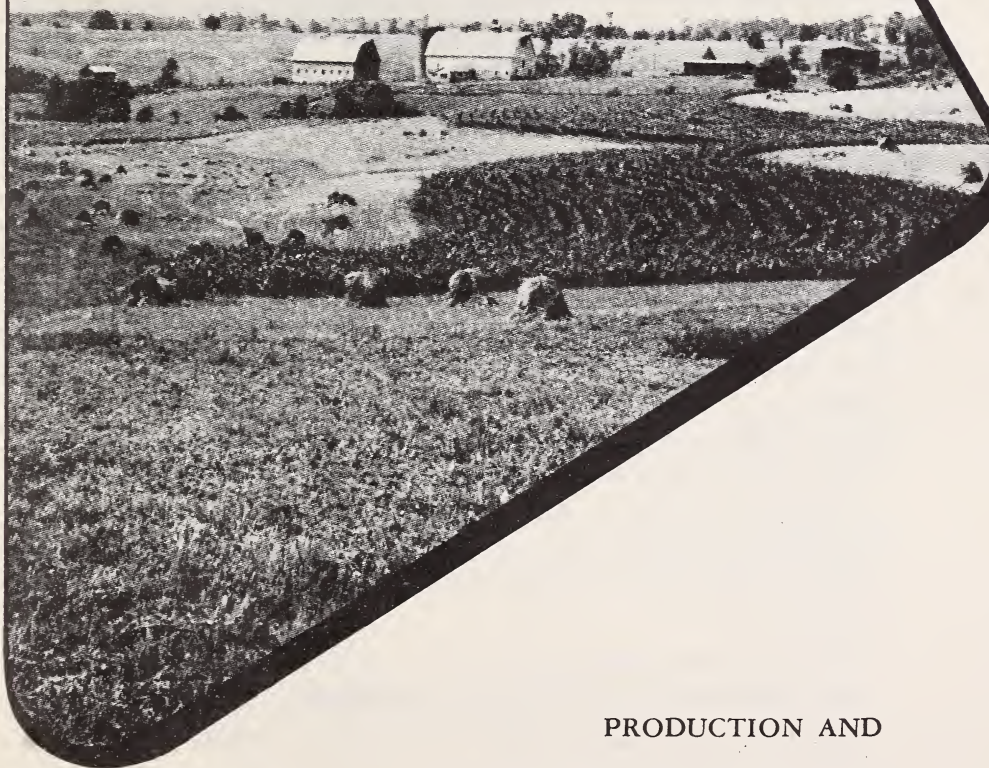
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Abundant Continued Production

ACP

through the AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM



PRODUCTION AND

MARKETING ADMINISTRATION

Agricultural Conservation Programs Branch

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

PA-76

Abundant Continued Production *through* The Agricultural Conservation Program

What it is.—A national program for the conservation of soil and water to assure continued balanced production of the land.

Where it operates.—In every agricultural county and community in the United States, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

Who participates.—Everybody, since the Government shares with farmers the cost of needed conservation practices.

Who is in charge.—Farmer committeemen elected by farmers.

What it is doing.—Aided by this program farmers of the United States, during the 12 years, 1936-47:

Protected over 14,000,000 acres with 742,000 miles of terraces to control water erosion.

Constructed 730,000 dams for livestock, to check erosion, and to control floods.

Farmed 111,305,000 acres of crops on the contour to check runoff and reduce erosion.

Applied 186,000,000 tons of lime to nearly 105,000,000 acres to provide favorable growing conditions for grass and legumes as a means of protecting the soil against erosion and depletion.

Applied nearly 16,000,000 tons of phosphate fertilizer to about 124,000,000 acres as a means of improving pasture and hay land, which in turn protects the land.

Grew and plowed-under 198,000,000 acres of cover and green-manure crops to add organic matter and build resistance to erosion.

Planted 622,000 acres of trees to save soil and protect wildlife.

HAVE PLENTY WITHOUT WASTE



WHEN THE SOIL IS GONE

When the topsoil is gone and the farm is no longer productive, the Nation has that much less of its most valuable natural resource—that much less food, that much less farm income, that much less business on Main Street.

When there was land to be had “farther west,” the farmer could leave his worn-out, eroded farm and move on.

But today new land is scarce and expensive to bring into production. Population is increasing.

The Agricultural Conservation Program is a means of fulfilling the national responsibility to hold the soil, to keep it productive, and to use effectively the water resources.

This is a brief story in words and pictures about the Agricultural Conservation Program—what it is doing to help farmers in the never-ending effort to keep the land producing abundantly.

All the productive land we have is:

471,498,000 acres of cropland
1,564,200,000 acres of pasture and range land

THERE ARE ONLY ABOUT 3 ACRES OF CROPLAND PER PERSON



PROTECTING THE LAND FROM WATER

Unchecked water from rains and melting snow rushing down unprotected slopes carries the soil with it.

That soil muddies our rivers, fills our harbors, and leaves the farms impoverished.

Terraces on sloping farm land check the downward flow of water. More of the water soaks into the soil to help grow more grass and more crops. Crops planted on the contour help hold back water, each crop row serving as a small dam, permitting the water to soak into the soil.

742,000 miles of terraces have been constructed to protect more than 14,000,000 acres of farm land from uncontrolled water.

More than 111,000,000 acres of crops have been farmed on the contour.

RUN-AWAY SOILS PRODUCE NO CROPS



TO KEEP THE SOIL FROM WASHING AWAY

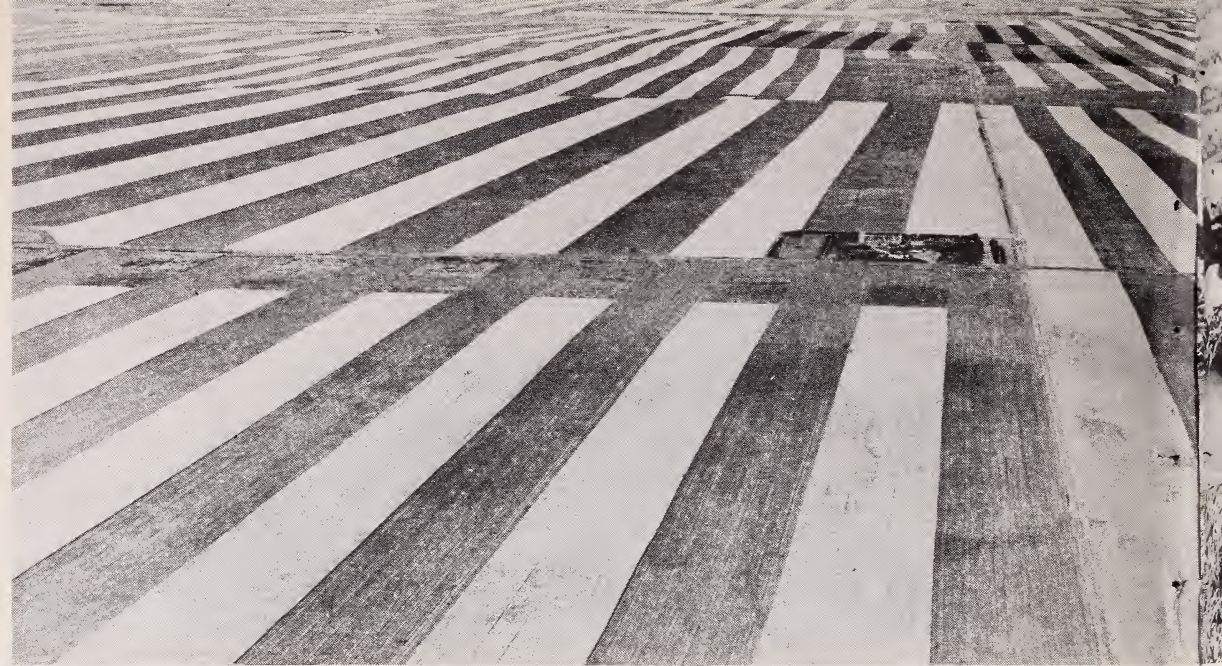
Gullies are symptoms of a sick land.

Often they are signs that the soil-holding humus has disappeared—that after years of cropping, the fiber is gone. With no roots and vegetable matter to hold the soil particles together the soil washes away, every rain cutting away more land.

Humus holds the soil and provides plant food. It must be replenished continually, every year in areas of high temperatures and abundant rain. It is being restored and maintained in the long-season, high-rainfall parts of the country by growing and turning under cover crops and green manure.

Nearly 200,000,000 acres of cover and green-manure crops, often stimulated by lime and fertilizer, have been grown and plowed under to protect the land and maintain humus.

GULLIES ARE EASIER TO STOP BEFORE THEY START



CONTROLLING WIND EROSION

Every year some good farming land is damaged by soil blowing.

Land unprotected by cover is exposed to the force of the wind. Heavier soil particles often are moved only a short distance, piling up in nearby fence rows. Lighter, finer particles often are carried for miles, clouding the sun over distant areas.

In low-rainfall farming areas, field strip-cropping the rows at right angles to the prevailing wind checks soil blowing. The crop is planted in narrow strips, leaving grass or stubble in between to check the wind and hold the soil particles before they start moving.

More than 6,000,000 acres of crops are being planted annually in strips.

DUST STORMS ARE FAMILIAR SIGNS OF SOIL ON THE LOOSE



WHERE WATER IS SCARCE

In much of the western part of the United States the production of the land depends on the water supply for irrigation.

Here conservation of the soil includes conservation of the water which determines the use of the soil—how much and what the soil will produce.

In many instances, half the water turned in at the head of a canal is lost before the stream reaches the farm, and ditches must be lined to save the water.

Reorganization of irrigation systems, construction of “overnight” irrigation reservoirs, and the installation of structures to control the flow of water are the means to insure more efficient use of limited water supplies.

In 1947 more than 46,000 rods of ditches were improved to check the loss of water and nearly 750,000 acres of land were leveled to get the maximum use of available water and prevent erosion.

EFFECTIVE PRODUCTION DEPENDS ON EFFECTIVE USE OF WATER



GRASSLAND CONSERVATION

More than half the land area of the United States is classed as pasture and range. About half of this is in 11 Western States.

Often this land is a part of the watershed which supplies water for irrigation and household purposes for farms and nearby cities.

Where range land has been overstocked or where drought has depleted the vegetation, severe damage often results from summer cloudbursts or heavy spring run-off.

Farmers and ranchers are concentrating on the construction of stock-water reservoirs, piping water from springs and seeps to nearby watering troughs, and drilling wells. The added water supplies result in a better distribution of livestock on the range and help prevent overgrazing and the erosion resulting when there are too few watering places.

To protect their range and their grassland, farmers and ranchers have carried out the following practices:

- Constructed and developed over 700,000 stock-water dams and watering places.

- Seeded and reseeded nearly 37,000,000 acres of range and pasture land.

**MUCH OF OUR BEEF, LAMB, AND WOOL COMES
FROM OUR RANGE AND GRASS LAND**



GRASS, THE GREAT SOIL SAVER

Grass and clover protect the soil from the beating and cutting effects of heavy rain. They hold the soil with their roots. They restore humus.

In rotations they strengthen the land for continued abundant production.

On lands that wash and blow easily, they hold the soil in place.

Progress in conservation hinges to a large extent upon the production of needed legume and grass seed supplies.

Under the 1947 Agricultural Conservation Program, cooperating farmers and ranchers seeded 5,238,000 acres of range and pasture to adapted varieties of grass and legumes.

The same year 18,618,000 acres of green-manure and cover crops were seeded.

A "STRONG" SOIL RESISTS EROSION



FOR ABUNDANT PRODUCTION

Effective abundance means abundance of a variety of foods, continued balanced abundance—not a surplus of one and a scarcity of another.

The Nation's agricultural program is aimed at making the land more productive and at keeping it productive.

Price supports encourage and make possible the carrying out of conservation practices.

The consumer is the chief beneficiary in that he is assured of a continuing supply of more and better food from the Nation's farms.

The following figures showing increased yields per acre in recent years indicate the progress being made in keeping up our soils so that improved varieties and better methods can result in greater production:

Crop:	Average yield per acre		Percent increase
	1928-32	1944-48	
Corn.....bushels..	24.7	34.6	40
Wheat.....bushels..	14.5	17.6	21
Cotton.....pounds..	173.9	273.3	57

CONTINUED ABUNDANCE DEPENDS ON CONTINUED PRODUCTION FROM THE LAND



ADDED DIVIDENDS

Many of the conservation practices carried out under the Agricultural Conservation Program are of definite and lasting benefit to game and wildlife.

Increased vegetation on farms and range land means clearer streams and more favorable conditions for fish.

Stock-water and erosion-control ponds are of value to waterfowl. Some are breeding places and others are way stations in the migration of ducks and geese.

Trees and windbreaks provide nesting and feeding places for birds.

Improved pastures are a boon to birds and small game animals.

More than 600,000 acres of trees have been planted in wood lots and shelter belts.

The 730,253 dams that have been constructed hold back water in as many ponds and reservoirs.

MAN LIVES BEST WHERE OTHER LIVING THINGS THRIVE



RESERVES FOR THE FUTURE

Population is on the increase. There were 132,000,000 people in the United States in 1940 and nearly 148,000,000 in 1948. There will be millions more by 1960.

The Agricultural Conservation Program assists farmers in carrying out conservation practices that build soil reserves, to be used when needed for future production of food and fiber.

The production and plowing under of soil-improving green-manure crops, and application of lime and phosphate, pasture improvement, and the seeding of grasses and legumes essentially are ways of building reserves in the soil.

Diet is changing, too. The following figures provide a comparison:

<i>Item:</i>	<i>Per capita food consumption per year</i>	
	<i>1925</i>	<i>1948</i>
Fruits and vegetables.....	pounds.... 352	454
Grain products	do 233	174
Milk equivalent	quarts 193	250
Meat, poultry, fish and game (excluding bacon and fat pork cuts) ..	pounds.... 147	158
Potatoes (white and sweet)	do 160	125

**PLENTY—BUT PLENTY WITHOUT WASTE—
NOW AND IN THE FUTURE**



FARMER COÖPERATION

The Nation's major conservation problems are largely on privately owned land—on the land of individual farmers.

These farmers have a responsibility to the Nation to produce and to help keep their land productive.

But all people depend on the land for a living, and all have a share in the responsibility of protecting and conserving the land.

The Agricultural Conservation Program is the means whereby this responsibility is shared, the means for insuring that the land will continue to produce.

Under the program the individual farmer is helped in carrying out needed conservation practices, the practices which assure that food production will be maintained.

More than 3,000,000 U. S. farmers—more than half of all farmers—carried out conservation practices in 1947 with the assistance of the Agricultural Conservation Program.

Farms with 718,300,000 acres—almost two-thirds of the Nation's land in farms—were improved in that year by program practices.

**THE FARMER IS THE CUSTODIAN OF THE
NATION'S MOST PRECIOUS RESOURCE**



FOR THE NATIONAL WELFARE

The strength of the Nation depends upon the soil.

The Nation cannot be strong if the land is weak. The land cannot be strong if the farmer is forced to deplete his land to make a living.

The Agricultural Conservation Program provides the means for helping farmers carry on needed soil and water conservation on a Nation-wide front.

Average annual financial assistance to farmers under the Agricultural Conservation Program is less than \$90 per farm. The dollar value to the Nation of practices carried out with program assistance and stimulated by the program cannot be estimated.

A NATIONAL INVESTMENT TO ASSURE FOOD AND FIBER IN THE FUTURE



A FARMER-ADMINISTERED PROGRAM

Farmers administer the Agricultural Conservation Program.

Each year farmers in each community elect community committeemen and delegates to a county convention where county committeemen are elected.

These committeemen administer the program in their counties and communities.

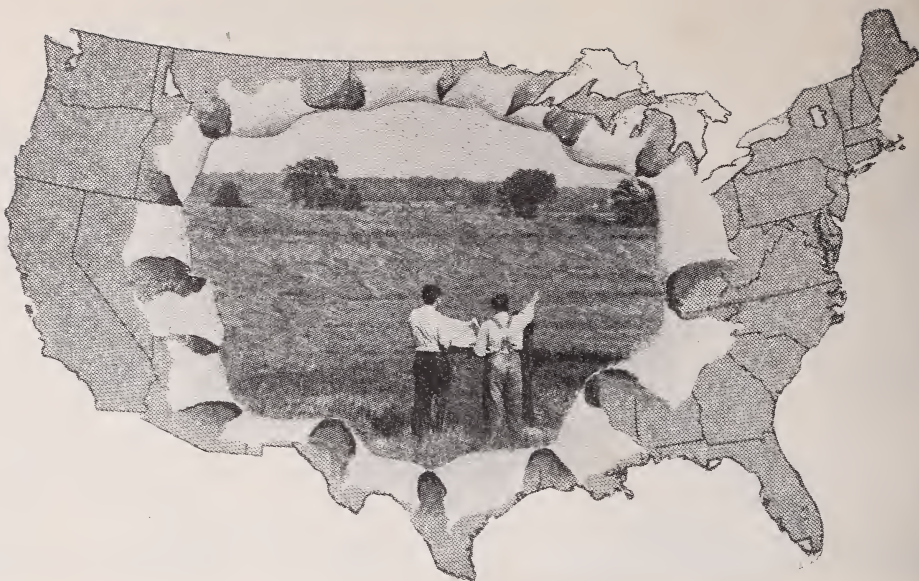
They make surveys to determine local conservation needs.

They make recommendations for conservation practices to be included in the national program, and they select the practices from the national list of conservation practices which are most needed in the county.

They check on the practices carried out and determine the amount of assistance to each farmer within the limits of available funds.

And they administer the other phases of the Nation's farm program which make conservation possible.

**PRODUCTION TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE IS IN
THE FARMERS' HANDS**



FOR EVERY FARMER IN EVERY FARMING COMMUNITY

The Agricultural Conservation Program is open to all farmers. It is administered by farmer committeemen elected by farmers in every agricultural county and community.

There is a county Agricultural Conservation Office and an elected farmer committee in each of the Nation's 3,030 farming counties and an elected community committee of farmers in each of the 30,000 farming communities.

This is the administrative force which through the Agricultural Conservation Program is putting the findings of scientists and the experience of farmers into operation to meet the challenge of the changing and increasing food needs of an increasing population.

THE AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM— ABUNDANT CONTINUED PRODUCTION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Production and Marketing Administration
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